

City of Newport Beach

Newport Beach City Arts Commission August 14, 2008– 5:00pm Central Library Friends Room

Convened at 5:06pm

Call To Order And Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Rita Goldberg, Secretary
Robert Smith
Wendy Brooks
Gil Lasky
Kirwan Rockefeller, Vice Chair
Robyn Grant, Chair

Commissioners Absent: Gerald Allison

Staff Present: Jana Barbier, Staff Liaison, Cultural Arts Coordinator; Cynthia Pirtle, Library Services Director

Public Present: Pat Jorgensen

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: It was MSP (Brooks/Rockefeller) to approve the July 10, 2008 minutes. Brooks asked that her business phone be listed on the Arts Commission roster with a "B" instead of an "M".

New Business: Commissioner Smith gave a report regarding the status of the medical building designed by Richard Neutra at 1901 Westcliff Drive. Smith provided an update to the commissioners and noted that he had contacted the planning department and was told that the project review and EIR would go before the Planning Commission in December of 2008. Discussion ensued as to the role of the Arts Commission regarding historical properties. Commissioner Lasky noted that the Arts Commission was customarily contacted by City Council if their input was requested. Commissioner Smith also provided information on the design process for a new City Hall, and noted that on September 27 candidate design firms would submit their proposals to the City.

Continued Business:

Staff Report /Correspondence - Staff asked if commissioners had had the chance to review the current staff report, calendar and correspondence. New nametags were presented to commissioner's Goldberg and Smith.

Committee Updates:

Chair Robyn Grant distributed a completed list of committee assignments for 2008-2009. Additionally, she passed around a "State of the Arts" report that had been presented to City Council in 2007. Commissioner Grant introduced new Library Services Director, Cynthia Pirtle and Arts Foundation member, Pat Jorgensen.

Performing Arts Committee – Commissioners noted that the last of the Concerts in the Parks would take place that Sunday (August 17, 2008) at Eastbluff Park with "The Joel Penner Sextet." The group discussed the success of Shakespeare by the Sea this summer as well as opera in the park and noted that they would like to continue this.

Fine Arts Committee – Discussion regarding artist's receptions at Central Library. Staff asked that this committee meet as soon as possible to review artist's submissions that had been coming in. It was agreed to select a date as soon as possible.

Art in Public Places Committee - Commissioners discussed the City's schedule for selecting an architect and noted that five finalists would be presenting their plans at an upcoming public meeting. Discussion ensued regarding other cities' use of art in public spaces and the resources necessary to achieve these kinds of programs.

Arts Foundation Liaison Committee – Commissioner Grant attended the foundation's last meeting and noted that Commissioner Goldberg would attend upcoming meetings as well. She discussed the budget for the foundation's recent "Art in the Park." It was noted that an arts and crafts show was scheduled for Sunday, November 9, but that a site had not been designated yet. The Foundation would be planning a holiday party, and the next Art in the Park event was already scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2009.

Commissioner Announcements – Commissioner Grant noted that the Newport Theater Arts Center would be reopening soon and encouraged Arts Commissioners to attend the ceremony. Commissioner Brooks reminded the commission that the Port Theater was being renovated.

It was MSP (Rockefeller/Lasky) to adjourn the meeting.
Adjournment: 6:48p.m.